

Remarks/Arguments:

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 8. Claims 9-11 are cancelled, and claim 12 is added.

Claims 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isobe et al. in view of Joo et al. Claims 9-11 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The Official Action identifies item 21 in Fig. 6B of Isobe as corresponding to a lower electrode and item 22 as corresponding to a titanium material layer. Since a titanium material layer may include BaTiO_3 , SrTiO_3 , $\text{Ba}_x\text{Sr}_{(1-x)}\text{TiO}_2$ (in view of Joo), claim 8 of the present application was rejected.

However, the structure as recited in amended claim 8 of the present application is that "when viewed from above the surface of the semiconductor device, the titanium material layer is arranged inside the lower electrode." In Applicants' Fig. 2D, reference numbers 2, 3, and 4 correspond to a lower electrode, a dielectric material, and an upper electrode, respectively. No new matter has been added. Therefore, the structure as recited in amended claim 8 is different from that of the combination of cited references. In the cited references, a titanium material layer is not inside a lower electrode (when viewed from above). Since the combination of cited references is not the structure as recited in Applicants' amended claim 8, the structure of the combination of cited references cannot reduce the leak current between the lower electrode 21 and the titanium material layer 22 as is achieved by Applicants.

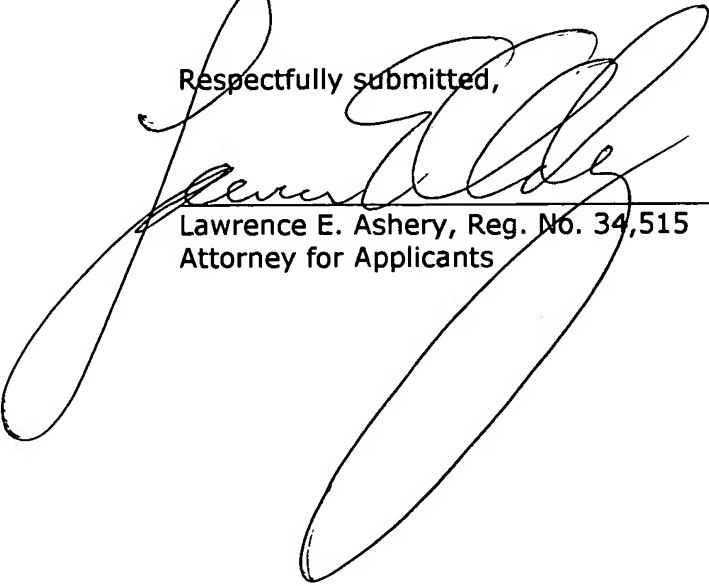
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Claim 12 is newly added and is supported by Fig. 2D. No new matter has been added.
This claim is allowable by virtue of its dependency on allowable claim 8.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

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